

## Case Forms

*Case* is the form that a noun or a pronoun takes to show its relationship to other words in a sentence. In English, there are three cases: *nominative*, *objective*, and *possessive*.

**NOMINATIVE CASE** That **author** is my favorite. **He** is my favorite. [subjects]

**OBJECTIVE CASE** I gave **him** a **book** with **pictures**. [objects]

**POSSESSIVE CASE** **My** sister likes that **author's** books. [possessive pronoun and possessive noun]

**EXERCISE** Above each underlined word in the following sentences, write *N* for *nominative case*, *O* for *objective case*, or *P* for *possessive case*.

**Example 1.** <sup>N</sup>I read an article about a famous explorer.

1. She went to the bottom of the ocean.
2. Another diver followed her as a safety precaution.
3. The divers used hand signals to communicate underwater.
4. Near the shore, they saw a shelf of land.
5. This shelf's name is the continental shelf.
6. A shelf can slope many fathoms under water.
7. These shelves attract explorers from around the world.
8. Scuba divers wear special equipment for exploring.
9. A diver's mask is a window to an exciting, new world.
10. Its fit helps to ensure a safe and comfortable dive.
11. Hers is equipped with a purge valve that helps to remove water.
12. Fins increase a diver's swimming power.
13. A snorkel is attached to the mask strap on the left side.
14. It helps a diver on the surface to conserve air.
15. When they wear scuba tanks, divers take their air supply with them.
16. We want to learn to scuba dive.
17. Mr. Jesse will teach us.
18. He teaches his classes at the city pool.
19. Our final dive, or checkout dive, would be at Lake Travis.
20. Will Tana's soccer schedule interfere with scuba classes?

## The Nominative Case

**10a.** The **subject** of a verb should be in the nominative case.

**EXAMPLE** Did **he** and **she** design the Web site? [*He* and *she* are the subjects of *Did design*.]

**10b.** A **predicate nominative** should be in the nominative case.

**EXAMPLE** The judges will be **they**. [*They* follows the linking verb *will be* and identifies the subject *judges*.]

**EXERCISE A** For each of the sentences below, underline the correct pronoun form in parentheses.

**Example 1.** Al and (they, *them*) volunteered at the homeless shelter.

1. (*We*, *Us*) play chess every afternoon.
2. Everyone could see it was (*he*, *him*).
3. Did the Jenkins family or (*they*, *them*) host the picnic?
4. The French government and (*we*, *us*) have a good relationship.
5. On our team the high scorers were (*he*, *him*) and I.
6. The only people to understand the poem were (*they*, *them*).
7. The police officer and (*we*, *us*) were the ones who saw the UFO.
8. Stephanie and (*he*, *him*) thought the joke was hilarious.
9. Either Toni or (*she*, *her*) will pick you up after the show.
10. Wasn't it (*he*, *him*) who reported the missing bicycle?

**EXERCISE B** Each of the following sentences contains an underlined pronoun. Write C above the underlined pronoun if its form is correct. If the pronoun form is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it.

**Example 1.** The tutors will be <sup>she</sup>~~her~~ and I.

11. Grandma and me went to a class to learn about computers.
12. After the replay, the referee said the winners were us.
13. The photographers should have been them.
14. The first to perform are we.
15. The most valuable player might have been her.

## The Objective Case

**10c.** A **direct object** should be in the objective case.

**EXAMPLE** Lisa asked **me** to go to the library. [*Me* tells *whom* Lisa asked.]

**10d.** An **indirect object** should be in the objective case.

**EXAMPLE** The teacher gave **us** a test. [*Us* tells *to whom* the teacher gave a test.]

**10e.** An **object of a preposition** should be in the objective case.

**EXAMPLE** No one except **Oscar** and **him** speaks Spanish. [*Oscar* and *him* are the objects of the preposition *except*.]

**EXERCISE A** For each of the sentences below, underline the correct pronoun form in parentheses.

**Example 1.** Did you go with Conchita and (*he*, *him*) to the party?

1. The clown chose Mike and (*she*, *her*) from the audience.
2. He offered (*we*, *us*) some kimchi, a Korean salad.
3. Everyone applauded the performers and (*he*, *him*).
4. Between you and (*I*, *me*), the Hornets are my favorite team.
5. The crossing guard gave Racquel and (*I*, *me*) some good advice.

**EXERCISE B** Each of the following sentences contains at least one underlined pronoun. Write C above the underlined pronoun if its form is correct. If the pronoun form is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it.

**Example 1.** Will you show him and <sup>C</sup>~~I~~<sup>me</sup> your science project?

6. There are several seats between her and we.
7. Mr. Yakanura made us tempura for dinner.
8. Mr. Hinds gave Peggy and she directions.
9. She gave the CD-ROM to we.
10. When we visited China, Grandma took me to a festival.
11. Will you give her and I your e-mail address?
12. We played against the Raiders and they at the end of the season.
13. Will our class send him a get-well card?
14. The soothing piano music calmed she and I.
15. For he and I, Ms. Tompkins drew a huge cat.

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# Nominative and Objective Case A

The *subject* of a verb and a *predicate nominative* should be in the nominative case.

**EXAMPLES** May **we** go to the art exhibit? [subject]

My favorite artists are **Frida Kahlo** and **she**. [predicate nominatives]

A *direct object*, an *indirect object*, and an *object of a preposition* should be in the objective case.

**EXAMPLES** Mother took **her** and **me** to the gallery opening. [direct objects]

Show **us** your latest charcoal drawing. [indirect object]

For **Sue** and **them**, the guide gave a special tour. [objects of a preposition]

**EXERCISE** For each of the following sentences, underline the correct pronoun form in parentheses.

**Example 1.** They and (I, me) visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

1. The guide showed (we, us) the Yoruba sculpture exhibit.
2. Tell (I, me) more about this African art form.
3. (We, Us) think this terra-cotta sculpture is fascinating!
4. The last to leave the exhibit was (she, her).
5. Greta and (he, him) were eager to see "Mirror of the Medieval World."
6. They waited for (we, us) at the door.
7. Art of the Middle Ages interests (they, them).
8. (We, Us) saw works of art created between the fourth and sixteenth centuries.
9. The group members most interested in medieval art are (we, us).
10. The guide directed (I, me) to an American Indian art exhibit.
11. Everyone except (they, them) followed me.
12. Hal and (he, him) were amazed by the quilled and beaded work.
13. Drawings on painted buffalo skins told (we, us) stories.
14. Kim showed (I, me) a basket woven by Datsolalee.
15. One of the best-known of all American Indian basket weavers is (she, her).
16. Between you and (I, me), the wooden masks seemed scary.
17. The guide gave (we, us) pamphlets about the exhibit.
18. It was (I, me) who begged to stay.
19. My sister should have come with (we, us).
20. I bought (she, her) a book from the museum's bookshop.

## Nominative and Objective Case B

The *subject* of a verb and a *predicate nominative* should be in the nominative case.

*A direct object, an indirect object, and an object of a preposition should be in the objective case.*

**EXERCISE** Each of the following sentences contains at least one underlined pronoun. Write C above the underlined pronoun if its form is correct. If the pronoun form is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it.

**Example 1.** Our visitors might have been <sup>C</sup> she and <sup>he</sup> him.

1. Did you see the photographs by Dorothea Lange and she?
2. The winner in the Fun Run's wheelchair division was he.
3. Dr. Chen showed her and I his acupuncture clinic.
4. The volunteer coordinator should be her.
5. Will you play a game with he and I?
6. Him and me are building a model of the White House.
7. Did you see him and her at the grocery store?
8. Grandpa taught he and I some yoga postures.
9. Your biggest fans are her and me.
10. Will you go with Claire and I to hear the violinist Itzhak Perlman?
11. I made her and him a nutritious snack.
12. We and they meet on Thursdays for chess games.
13. Mother and me designed a new birdhouse.
14. Daisuke told she and I about his trip to Tokyo.
15. Did you choose him or I?
16. Juanita, Malcolm, and me collaborated on a science project.
17. Is the author of the skit her or him?
18. Uncle Stuart gave him and I bicycles for our shared birthday.
19. The awards presented to she and I were hung over the mantelpiece.
20. We may have to go to the mall without her.

# The Possessive Case

- 10f.** The personal pronouns in the possessive case—*my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, their, theirs*—are used to show ownership or possession.

**EXAMPLES** Have you seen **my** sweater?  
I believe these books are **theirs**.

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, underline the personal pronoun in the possessive case.

**Example 1.** Mine has white stripes.

1. Did Jenny try on her kimono?
2. With yours, the class has now collected over one hundred cans.
3. My report is about the history of skateboarding.
4. Mine is hanging in the closet.
5. Has theirs ever been tested for safety?
6. Our piñata is filled with fruit, nuts, and small toys.
7. A vegetarian restaurant is their choice.
8. Hers is the only project about volcanoes.
9. Where are your new glasses?
10. Its nest is made of twigs, leaves, and bits of yarn.

**EXERCISE B** Choose appropriate possessive-case pronouns for the blanks in the following sentences. Use a variety of pronouns.

**Example 1.** Is this video game yours?

11. Will \_\_\_\_\_ poem appear in our school's literary magazine?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ stamp collection is not for sale.
13. Place your trophy next to \_\_\_\_\_.
14. I want to leave my suitcase here with \_\_\_\_\_.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Web page design looks professional.
16. Has \_\_\_\_\_ piano been tuned lately?
17. \_\_\_\_\_ opinions differ on that issue.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ was chosen first.
19. Did \_\_\_\_\_ basketball coach offer any helpful suggestions?
20. Most of \_\_\_\_\_ clothes are made of cotton.